

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JON D. FOX

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 11, 1996*

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 301, I inadvertently voted "aye" and intended to vote "no."

## 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HANDICAPPED ADULTS ASSOCIATION OF CO-OP CITY

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 11, 1996*

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, handicapped people are a significant part of our population and a group which deserves our support as they strive for independence. The Handicapped Adults Association of Co-op City in the Bronx is an organization of individuals which has done much to achieve that independence.

HAA was organized in 1971 by individuals who saw the need to unite the fragmented, disabled adult population. They sought to make the changes necessary to improve life for the disabled everywhere. These valiant people worked for adequate public transportation, housing, and employment. Their work has borne fruit in the Urban Mass Transit Act, mandating accessible public transportation, and the Americans with Disabilities Act. I want to join all of my neighbors in Co-op City in congratulating HAA on its 25th anniversary and for its many accomplishments.

## TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE JOHN S. WATSON, SR.

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 11, 1996*

Mr. PAYNE of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, on June 29 while we were back in our districts for the Independence Day District Work Period, the State of New Jersey lost one of its champions, the Honorable John S. Watson, Sr. A man of many firsts, he chose to use his experiences, talents, and resources to serve the public.

Mr. Watson served six terms in the New Jersey General Assembly beginning in 1981. He served on the assembly housing and urban policy committee and the assembly appropriations committee. His diligent work on the appropriations committee resulted in Mr. Watson being named assembly minority budget officer. In 1992, he was appointed chairperson of the assembly appropriations committee, making him the first African-American legislator to hold such a position.

His tenure in the assembly afforded him the opportunity to author numerous appropriations committee resolutions funding programs in housing, arts, health, education and human services. He sponsored legislation establishing a set-aside program for the acquisition of African-American art—the first in the Nation's history. He also sponsored legislation creating

the New Jersey Pre-College Program for High School Students and the Minority Opportunity Skills Training [MOST] Program. He was also responsible for the legislation which permanently established the State's Martin Luther King, Jr., Commemorative Commission.

Prior to his service in the general assembly, Mr. Watson served ten years on the Mercer County Board of Chosen Freeholders. I had the privilege of meeting him when I served on the Essex County Board of Chosen Freeholders from 1972 to 1978. Mr. Watson was first appointed to the Board in 1970, where he became the first African-American to be elected freeholder in the history of Mercer County. He went on to become the first African-American to serve as president of any Freeholder Board in the State of New Jersey. He became an active member and leader of the New Jersey Association of Counties and the National Association of Counties.

In 1992, Mr. Watson used his knowledge of the State, its leaders and his coalition-building skills to create the New Jersey African-American Political Alliance. I am honored to serve as chairman of the alliance which is a statewide coalition of political and other leaders that works to influence decisions that affect our communities and secure equity in the political arena. Mr. Watson served the organization with distinction as a vice chairman and was an integral part of many of our successes.

He not only served the people of New Jersey through his legislative work but he was active in many civic organizations including the Trenton Branch NAACP, Junior Achievement, New Jersey Juvenile Delinquency Commission, Trenton State College Equal Opportunity Fund [EOF] Community Advisory Board, and the Delaware-Raritan Canal Commission.

Mr. Watson's work and accomplishments have not gone unnoticed. He holds an honorary doctorate of laws degree from Richard Stockton State College, Pomona, NJ. The Edison State College Institute for Public Policy in Trenton, NJ, was renamed the John S. Watson, Sr., Institute for Public Policy. The newly constructed community center of the Patton J. Hill School in Trenton, NJ, was named in honor of Mr. Watson.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure my colleagues will want to join me as I pay tribute to a man of conviction, commitment and achievement, and offer my condolences to his four children, eight grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

## TRIBUTE TO VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS, PALOS PARK MEMORIAL POST 4861

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 11, 1996*

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the VFW Palos Park Memorial Post 4861 on the occasion of their Remembrance Day. I was able to attend this moving ceremony which was filled with tributes of those who have bravely fought the overseas battles of this country and pledged themselves to defend human rights in time of peace and war. It was an honor for me to speak in front of these great crusaders.

The members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars embody the highest ideals held to man, courage, constancy, and service. The Cross of Malta, the official emblem of the VFW, was selected as their emblem because it was the emblem of men who fought to free the oppressed. Additionally, these men have made a commitment to administer to the sick and needy. For the men of the VFW, the Cross of Malta continues to symbolize the pledge of the original crusaders who pledged to defend human rights in time of peace and war. The VFW continues to honor the pledge of the original crusaders in all that they accomplish. Today, the VFW fulfills their vows of honor by giving aid to worthy comrades, offering a helping hand to widows and orphans and defends the right to life, liberty, and happiness. The admirable qualities that the VFW members embody are truly worthy of recognition.

I would like to pay special tribute to the officers for 1995–96, Gerald E. Brown, post commander; Jack Westberg, past commander; Robert E. Elli, Sr. vice commander; Leon H. Tursky Jr. vice commander; Ted Karamanski, adjutant; Art Mitchell, quartermaster; Ernest Gaul, chaplain; Peter Pragitt, officer of the day; John A. Barun, service officer; and the trustees, Michael J. McMahon, Arthur Koren, and Walter Fieroh. Additionally I would like to pay tribute to the speakers of this event, Norm Busch, Congressman HARRIS FAWELL, Patrick O'Malley, Jack O'Connor, and the Honorable Donald H. Jeanes, the Mayor of the Village of Palos Park.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, Palos Park Memorial Post 4861 on their Remembrance Day ceremony and wish them continued success in all their endeavors.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 11, 1996*

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, earlier today during the consideration of H.R. 3755, the Labor/HHS/Education appropriations bill for fiscal year 1997, I missed two votes on amendments to this legislation. At the time those votes were ordered, I was giving important testimony to the Senate Subcommittee on Forests and Public Land Management concerning legislation regarding the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on the Pelosi amendment, rollcall vote No. 301; and I would have voted "no" on the Lowey amendment, rollcall vote No. 302.

## RECOGNIZING BRIG. GEN. PAUL D. MONROE, JR. FOR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 11, 1996*

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding achievement of Brig. Gen. Paul D. Monroe, Jr. of the California National Guard. General Monroe is the assistant adjutant general of the California National Guard's Plans and Mobilization Office